

REMARKS

This amendment is in response to the Official Action mailed on November 3, 2005. Applicant has amended claims 1 and 10. Claims 1, 3-10 and 10-18 as amended remain pending in this application.

Reexamination and reconsideration of the above-identified application, pursuant to and consistent with 37 C.F.R. § 1.112, and in light of the amendments and remarks that follow, are respectfully requested. Because the present claims as now amended are believed to be in condition for allowance over the newly-cited combination of prior art, it is submitted that good cause exists for the entry of this amendment in accordance with 37 C.F.R. § 1.116.

In the Official Action, the Examiner rejected the pending claims under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over previously-cited U.S. Patent No. 6,470,497 to Ellis et al. ("Ellis") in view of newly-cited U.S. Patent No. 6,289,169 to Okuyama ("Okuyama"). Applicant submits that the currently presented claims are not rendered obvious by these references.

In the Official Action, with respect to claims 1 and 10, the Examiner cited Ellis for disclosing all of the claimed features except a means for multiplexing the first and second insertion signals on the main information signal. The Examiner then relied upon Okuyama, which is said to disclose an apparatus for superimposing information on a main signal by multiplexing the first and second insertion signals on the main information signal. The Examiner cites to Figures 4-7 and column 1, line 60 through column 2, line 30 of Okuyama for this support. The Examiner further contends that superimposing information on the main signal and multiplexing the signal on the first and second insertion signals allows for better quality of viewing and recording. The Examiner thus concludes that it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at

the time of the invention to use the inserting apparatus as disclosed in Ellis and incorporate a system wherein the signals are multiplexed as disclosed by Okuyama.

It should be noted that the combination of Okuyama with Ellis, however, does not disclose, teach or suggest the presently claimed invention. The portions cited by the Examiner in Okuyama disclose only the transfer of a plurality of channels using IEEE 1394, which is capable of multiplex transfer of a plurality of channels, and multiplexing EPG (Electronic Program Guide) data and the main information signal. There is no disclosure, however, of the feature of the presently amended independent claims of multiplexing the first and second insertion signals to generate alternating signals of the first and second insertion signals along a time direction of the main information signals. With such feature, the present invention reduces the amount of insertion information, as signals of the first and second insertion signals are alternated. This therefore also reduces the amount of added information to the main information signals.

As to Ellis, the cited sections of Ellis (Fig. 5a and column 10, lines 20-52) merely describe a channel scanning feature that can be activated when the program schedule system of Ellis operates in a "FLIP" mode, as shown in Figure 5A. However, Ellis fails to disclose, teach or suggest the claimed multiplexing of the first and second insertion signals.

The presently claimed invention, by contrast, multiplexes and superimposes the multiplexed insertion signals on the main information signal and generates alternating signals of the first and second insertion signals along a time direction of the main information signals.

Because the combination of Ellis and Okuyama fail to disclose, teach or suggest the claimed means or method for multiplexing as provided in independent claims 1 and 10, and

thus the claims that depend therefrom, Applicant respectfully submits that the currently presented claims are patentable over the cited references and requests that the Examiner withdraw the final rejection of the claims.

In view of the above, each of the presently pending claims in this application is believed to be in immediate condition for allowance. Accordingly, the Examiner is respectfully requested to withdraw the outstanding rejection of the claims and to pass this application to issue.

If, however, for any reason the Examiner does not believe that such action can be taken at this time, it is respectfully requested that she telephone applicant's attorney at (908) 654-5000 in order to overcome any additional objections which he might have.

If there are any additional charges in connection with this requested amendment, the Examiner is authorized to charge Deposit Account No. 12-1095 therefor.

Dated: January 3, 2006

Respectfully submitted,

By 

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